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SUBJECT : Brazil-Paraguay Boundary

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SUGGESTED DISTRIBUTION

Note: The information below and the enclosed map were provided to the Embassy by Paraguayan members of the Paraguay-Brazil Mixed Boundary Commission and should be treated as confidential.

* * *

The only portion of the Paraguay - Brazil boundary which remains in dispute is an 11-kilometer sector between Sierra de Maracayu and the Parana River (see enclosed map). The Mixed Boundary Commission, working from the west toward the Parana River, has placed demarcation pillars up to a point at Sierra de Maracayu about 14 kilometers northwest of Guaira Falls. Paraguay and Brazil have reached agreement on the boundary line from the last demarcation pillar (No. 366) to a point about three kilometers to the east (Point A on map). The Mixed Boundary Commission plans to place demarcation pillars along this three-kilometer sector by 1976. From the eastern terminus of this sector (Point A) to Guaira Falls, a distance of about 11 kilometers, the boundary is still disputed.

According to the 1872 Paraguay-Brazil treaty which governs the work of the Mixed Boundary Commission, the boundary over

Enclosure: Map of Disputed Sector of Paraguay-Brazil Boundary

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the disputed sector should follow the line of highest elevation (cumbre) to Guaira Falls. Paraguay claims that the line of highest elevation extends from Point A to the first of Guaira's seven major falls (Point B on map). Brazil claims that the line of highest elevation lies several kilometers to the southeast, extending from Point A to the fifth of Guaira's falls (Point C on map).

Paraguay believes that its claim is based on firm topographical data and that Brazil eventually will accede to the Paraguayan position. However, the GOP does not anticipate reaching an agreement with Brazil until after the completion of the Itaipu hydroelectric project (1982 at the earliest). The Itaipu project will flood a portion of the disputed area, and the Paraguayans believe this will facilitate agreement.

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